

**In the Claims**

Claims 1-31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method of forming a particle-impregnated conductive material over a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

spreading particles over the semiconductor substrate;

forming a monolayer of conductive material over the particles; and

wherein the conductive ~~layer~~ material and particles together are at least part of the particle-impregnated conductive material.

Claim 33 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the particles are electrically conductive.

Claims 34 and 35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32 wherein the particles comprise carbon nanotubes.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32 wherein the particles comprise photoluminescent or electroluminescent materials.

Claim 38 (withdrawn, and currently amended): The method of claim 32 wherein the ~~particle-impregnated~~ conductive material is catalytic platinum.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the particles comprise tungsten.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 39 wherein the monolayer comprises tungsten.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 40 wherein the particle-impregnated conductive material comprises tungsten silicide.

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 39 wherein the monolayer comprises tantalum.

Claim 43 (original): The method of claim 42 wherein the particle-impregnated conductive material comprises tantalum nitride.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the particles have an average maximum dimension of from about 100Å to about 10,000Å.

Claim 45 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the monolayer comprises tungsten.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the monolayer comprises tungsten, wherein the particle-impregnated conductive material comprises tungsten silicide, and further comprising exposing the at least some of tungsten of the monolayer to silane to incorporate at least some of the tungsten into the tungsten silicide.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 46 wherein the monolayer is formed from  $WF_6$ .

Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 32 wherein the monolayer comprises tantalum.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): The method of claim 32 wherein the monolayer comprises tantalum, wherein the particle-impregnated conductive material comprises tantalum nitride, and further comprising exposing at least some of the tantalum of the monolayer to  $NH_3$  to incorporate at least some of the tantalum into the tantalum nitride.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): The method of claim 49 wherein the monolayer is formed from  $TaF_5$ .

Claims 51-60 (canceled).